

ESPRIT ORCHESTRA 30TH ANNIVERSARY

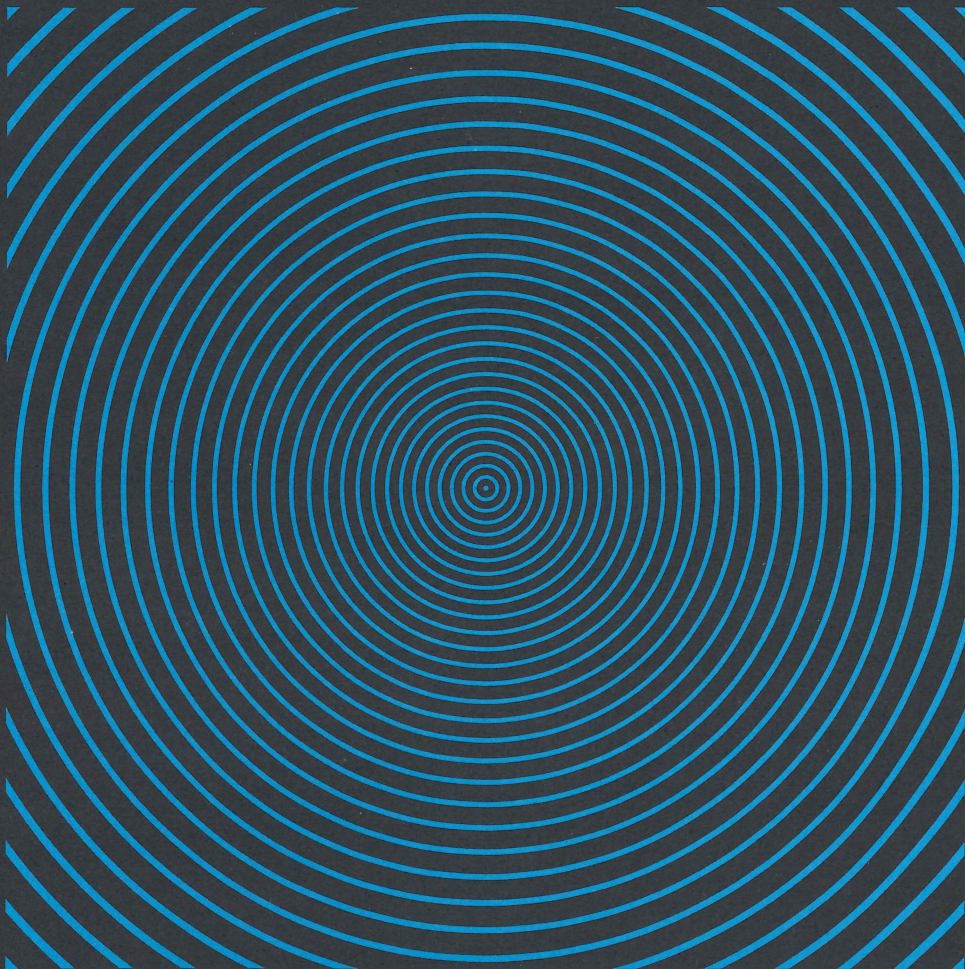
THE TUNING
OF THE WORLD
2012-2013
CONCERT SEASON

ALEX PAUK,
FOUNDING MUSIC
DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR

SEASON SPONSOR

BMO  Financial Group

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MUSIC DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Thirty years have passed in the blink of an eye. It seems like yesterday that I was dreaming about forming an orchestra that would re-invigorate orchestral life for composers in Canada (at a time when commissioning and performance opportunities with the traditional orchestras had hit bottom). Then, my vision was transformed into reality with corporate seed money that permitted our first concert to take place in the summer of 1983.

From the start, my attention was focused on commissioning the best composers and carefully selecting repertoire for imaginative concerts that were themselves like compositions. Discovery, encouragement, presentation, promotion and support of composers from all generations, in an international context, have been Esprit's hallmarks.

Equal care has been given to building an excellent body of musicians capable of and interested in giving composers their best in order to reveal the true nature of their musical creations. The camaraderie, "good vibes" and artistic integrity of Esprit's musicians have been evident in all our concerts, educational initiatives, radio broadcasts (live-to-air and recorded), CD recordings, film score recordings and tours.

Naturally, it was a wonderful programming challenge to think of how Esprit's 30th Anniversary Season might reflect Esprit's essence today, yet look to past accomplishments and hint at future musical delights. To start, I commissioned ten new pieces from composers for whom Esprit has been important and who have been important in Esprit's history. Eight of these appear on the subscription series and two will be featured in our 2013 New Wave Festival in late March.

Our concert series includes a multimedia collaboration involving the outstanding Canadian photographer Edward Burtynsky and experimental film maker John Price with a piece of my own. The project reflects my dual nature as composer

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and conductor as well as my continuous involvement with other artistic disciplines. Alexina Louie was my steadfast partner in founding Esprit 30 years ago and I've included a work of hers written in tribute to Glenn Gould at the time of his death 30 years ago. Another auspicious 30th anniversary is that of Claude Vivier's death, so his music also appears in our programming. Our performance celebrating the 100th anniversary of the premiere of Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* connects us to our roots in the explosive start, and rapid, vibrant, extreme changes that the piece subsequently generated in Western music.

Our most successful CD worldwide is represented through the inclusion of McPhee's *Tabuh-Tabuhan*. Zosha Di Castri's music appears because she is our foremost rising star with a rapidly growing international reputation and she must be heard in Canada. Remarkable soloists Ryan Scott, Wallace Halladay and Robert Aitken, Esprit audience favourites, grace our series in ultra-virtuosic pieces.

I'm thrilled that we'll launch R. Murray Schafer's autobiography *My Life on Earth and Elsewhere* at the opening concert. We've learned so much from Murray and our season's title, *The Tuning of the World*, borrowed from his book of the same name, provides thematic cohesion for much of our programming this season.

I invite you to join us at Koerner Hall for Esprit's most exciting season ever – one that puts you at a historical focal point in Canadian music. Our artists all have something important to express to you and I welcome you to be with us to receive their messages.



**ALEX PAUK,
FOUNDING MUSIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR**

ABOUT ESPRIT ORCHESTRA

Esprit Orchestra is Canada's only full-sized orchestra devoted exclusively to performing and promoting new orchestral music. Formed in 1983 by Music Director and Conductor Alex Pauk, this innovative Toronto-based orchestra commissions, performs and promotes Canadian composers through its annual concert series and outreach/education programs. Every season, Alex Pauk and his 65-member orchestra collaborate with outstanding soloists and ensembles to give audiences spine-tingling performances of contemporary classical music in the acoustically acclaimed Koerner Hall at the Royal Conservatory of Music in the TELUS Centre for Performance and Learning.



THE TUNING OF THE WORLD

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2012
8:00 PM CONCERT
7:15 PM PRE-CONCERT TALK

KOERNER HALL AT THE ROYAL CON-
SERVATORY IN THE TELUS CENTRE
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CONCERT SPONSOR THE MAX
CLARKSON FAMILY FOUNDATION
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Opening Esprit Orchestra's 30th Anniversary Season, this concert features the premiere of *Wolf Returns* by R. Murray Schafer, a magical, other-worldly work that incorporates chanting by members of Schafer's Wolf Project from the Haliburton Wildlife Reserve. Mythical overtones imbue the premiere of Rea's musical depiction of the legend of Ikaros. Alexina Louie's awe-inspiring *O Magnum Mysterium: In Memoriam Glenn Gould*, interweaves imagined sounds of the cosmos with strands of music by Bach and Mahler. The orchestral colors and pulsations of McPhee's *Tabuh-Tabuhan* and the immense power of *For the Whales*, Xenakis' work for large string orchestra, provide the special flare to launch Esprit's 30th Anniversary.

Special Feature: the launch of R. Murray Schafer's autobiography *My Life on Earth and Elsewhere*. Mr. Schafer will be present to autograph copies of his book.

PROGRAMME

R. MURRAY SCHAFER
*Wolf Returns**

JOHN REA
*Icare en émoi ... Dédale
à cran** (Ikaros agog ...
Daidalos on edge)

ALEXINA LOUIE
*O Magnum Mysterium:
In Memoriam Glenn Gould*

IANNIS XENAKIS
For the Whales

COLIN MCPHEE
Tabuh-Tabuhan

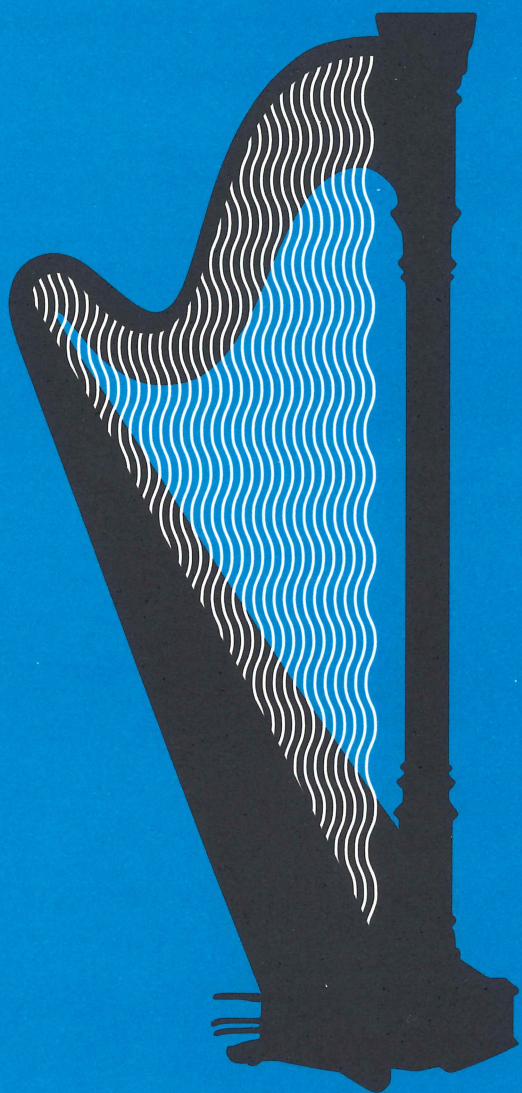
**Esprit Commission and
World Premiere*

FEATURING

Alex Pauk Conductor
Chanting group from
R. Murray Schafer's wilder-
ness project *And Wolf
Shall Inherit the Moon*

ENHANCING STIMULATION

The BMO Financial Group is Esprit's 30th Anniversary Season Sponsor, affirming the orchestra's value and reflecting BMO's leadership in supporting the arts as vibrant and meaningful to our community. Porcupine's Quill Press, collaborating with Esprit and *This Is Not A Reading Series*, adds to the glamour and excitement of the evening by launching R. Murray Schafer's autobiography *My Life on Earth and Elsewhere* at our concert in tandem with the premiere of Schafer's *Wolf Returns*.



EXQUISITE VIBRATIONS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2012
8:00 PM CONCERT
7:15 PM PRE-CONCERT TALK

KOERNER HALL AT THE ROYAL CON-
SERVATORY IN THE TELUS CENTRE
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Acclaimed Canadian photographer Edward Burtynsky, collaborating with composer Alex Pauk and experimental film maker John Price, has created multi-screen visual projections to flow with Pauk's *Musiques immergées* for orchestra and surround-sound playback of electroacoustic and environmental sounds. Projected on screens and scrims, Burtynsky's images move with the elements and forms of the music – surfacing, submerging, re-surfacing, re-immersing. This program, like other concerts in Esprit's season, includes premieres of music by composers for whom Esprit has been important or who have been important in Esprit's history. On this occasion, the commissioned composers are Chris Paul Harman and Bruce Mather. Harman's work includes playback clips of songs by British pop singer Cilla Black while a quintet of soloists in Mather's work focuses on the microtonal elements for which Mather is famous. Flutist Robert Aitken will display his superb virtuosity in the exhilarating *Flute Concerto* by Dalbavie, one of France's most important composers.

PROGRAMME

CHRIS PAUL HARMAN
*Cilla**

ALEX PAUK
Musiques immergées
for orchestra and
surround-sound digital
playback with multi-screen
photo/film projections

BRUCE MATHER
*Concerto Grosso**
for microtonal ensemble
and orchestra

MARC-ANDRÉ DALBAVIE
*Concerto for Flute
and Orchestra*

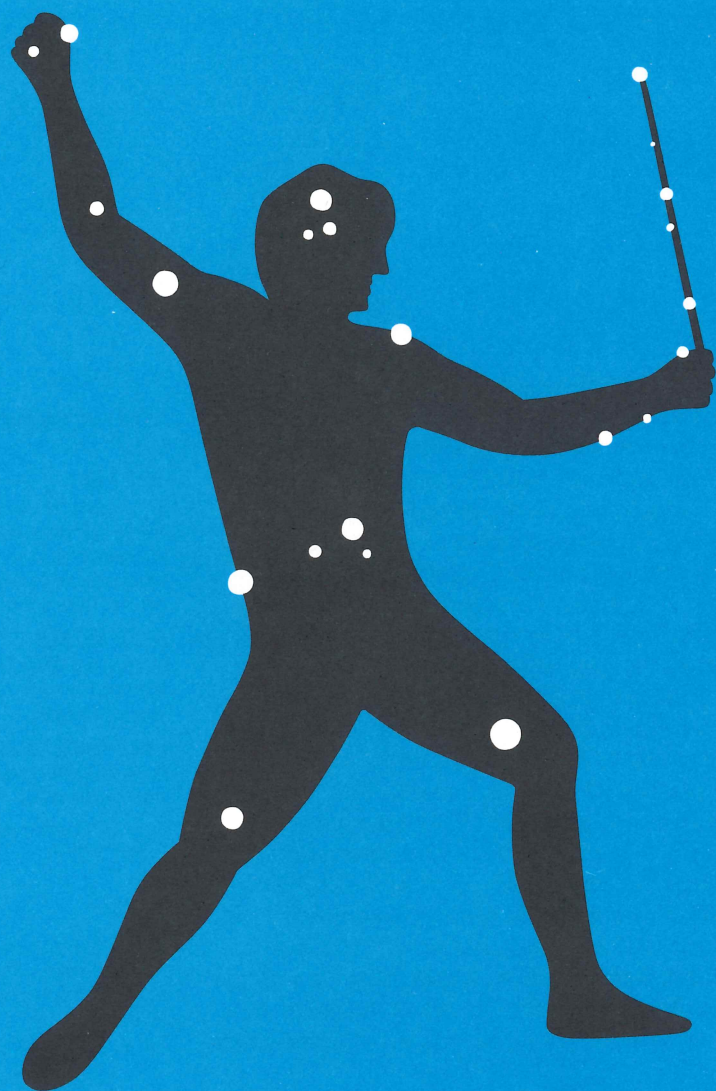
**Esprit Commission and
World Premiere*

FEATURING

Alex Pauk *Conductor*
Robert Aitken *Flute*
Edward Burtynsky
Photographer
John Price *Film maker*

MULTIMEDIA VIBRANCY

Burtynsky's conception and visual design for *Musiques immergées* parallels Pauk's musical composition as a series of "moments" unconnected to an "overall narrative." This approach, produced with additional video and film adaptations by filmmaker John Price, creates openings that invite varied states of meditation as an important aspect of the viewing and listening experience. The interplay between naturally occurring, electro-acoustic, and orchestral sound is evoked visually through the texture, content, and flow of visual imagery. Burtynsky's photography serves as the core material for this flow.



ORION

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 2013
8:00 PM CONCERT
7:15 PM PRE-CONCERT TALK

KOERNER HALL AT THE ROYAL CON-
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This concert simultaneously celebrates Esprit's 30th Anniversary and the 30th Anniversary of the death of Claude Vivier as well as the 100th anniversary of the premiere of Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* – one of the most important and revolutionary works in the history of music. The inclusion of Frehner's new work adds to the impressive list of Esprit's premieres this season. Vivier's *Orion*, haunting, sensual and evocative, takes shape as a cosmic soundscape of luminous twinkling and all-encompassing clouds of sound. This program luxuriates in the widest range of sonic perspectives. Stravinsky's work depicts a solemn pagan rite: wise elders, seated in a circle, watching a young girl dance herself to death – sacrificing her to the propitiate god of Spring. The piece is a set of scenes of earthly joy and celestial triumph as understood by the Slavs.

PROGRAMME

CLAUDE VIVIER

Orion

PAUL FREHNER

*Phantom Suns**

IGOR STRAVINSKY

*Le sacre du printemps /
The Rite of Spring* reduced
orchestra version arr. by
Jonathan McPhee

**Esprit Commission and
World Premiere*

FEATURING

Alex Pauk Conductor

DEEP ROOTS (AND THE RIOT)

Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* featured many new trajectories in the evolution of Western music (sophisticated handling of primitive rhythms, new dissonances, asymmetries, polytonalities, polyrhythms) and became a seminal 20th-century composition. *The Rite of Spring* ballet debuted at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées in Paris on May 29, 1913. Within the first few minutes of the piece, members of the audience booed loudly in response to the inharmonic notes accompanying the unrecognizable bassoon's opening solo. As the ballet progressed, a riot erupted. Those in favor of Stravinsky's work argued with those in opposition. The arguments turned into brawls. The show wasn't even half way over before people were throwing punches. Police arrived to calm the crowd but, as the second half commenced, they were unable to keep the audience under control and rioting resumed. Stravinsky was so taken aback by the audience's reaction, he fled the scene before the show was over.



30 AND COUNTING!

THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2013
8:00 PM CONCERT
7:15 PM PRE-CONCERT TALK

KOERNER HALL AT THE ROYAL CON-
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SPONSOR OF SOLOISTS
NICOLA VON SCHROETER

This Season Finale Concert combines the phenomenal energy of soloists Wallace Halladay (saxophone) and Ryan Scott (percussion) with Esprit's musicians in the premiere of a virtuosic double concerto written for the occasion by Erik Ross. Montrealers Denis Gougeon and José Evangelista have been commissioned to compose pieces not only to mark Esprit's 30 years of commissioning, performing and promoting Canadian music, but to signal the start of our next 30 years with a great flourish of sound. In recent years, many have asked for repeat performances of two bonbons - iconic pieces in popular culture - specially arranged for Esprit. So, as a special treat, the concert includes *Purple Haze* and the theme from *The Twilight Zone* (among Esprit's Greatest Hits). Marking our bridge with the young generation whose music will fill Esprit programmes in coming years, is a performance of music by Zosha Di Castri, an ascending Canadian star of international importance.

PROGRAMME

DENIS GOUGEON

New Work*

ERIK ROSS

*Burn** concerto for saxophone, percussion and orchestra

JOSÉ EVANGELISTA

*O Gamelan**

ZOSHA DI CASTRI

Alba

MARIUS CONSTANT

TW. Z. (The Twilight Zone)

JIMI HENDRIX

Purple Haze

ADDITIONAL REPERTOIRE TBA

*Esprit Commission and World Premiere

FEATURING

Alex Pauk *Conductor*

Wallace Halladay *Saxophone*

Ryan Scott *Percussion*

ESPRIT DE CORPS (AND MORE)

Exemplifying Esprit's core (corps) values, this programme focuses on new works and also highlights the success of emerging Canadian composer Zosha Di Castri whose music Esprit performed during our 2010 New Wave Festival. Zosha, winner of an important prize in the SOCAN Young Composers Competition this year, is also the inaugural composer in a programme titled New Voices, a collaborative project of Boosey and Hawkes, The San Francisco Symphony and the New World Symphony. A panel including composer John Adams and conductor Michael Tilson Thomas, chose Zosha to compose two works to be workshopped and premiered at the New World Symphony then rehearsed and performed by the San Francisco Symphony. The performances will be conducted by Michael Tilson Thomas and she will receive editorial guidance and business experience from publisher Boosey and Hawkes in New York. "The future of music depends on the nurturing of new composers" said Michael Tilson Thomas. This has been Esprit's main aim from the beginning and will continue to be our focus as we are 30 and Counting!

In addition to our annual concert series, Esprit also reaches out to the community through various education programmes. Esprit's *Toward a Living Art* programme provides free access to orchestral open rehearsals and performances for students, teachers and parents accompanying students.

Our *Creative Sparks* Mentoring and Leadership Programme puts composers and performers together with students to coach them in the development and performance of their own compositions. The programme culminates with public performances of the compositions at Esprit's *New Wave* Composers Festival.

Esprit Orchestra's annual *New Wave* Composers Festival, with a focus on newly discovered talent, highlights commissioning, performing and promoting brand new music by Canada's best and brightest young composers as well as the programming of outstanding works from abroad. The *New Wave* Festival draws emerging composers from across Canada and provides interaction with the public and a wide range of professionals in the music sector.

All outreach activities are free of charge. Support comes from the Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council, Toronto Arts Council, generous individuals, corporations and foundations – in particular, The Mary-Margaret Webb Foundation, The Max Clarkson Family Foundation, SOCAN Foundation and the Price Family.

Coffee Chats and soirees take place throughout the year with composers and musicians giving informal, informative talks and demonstrations of ideas and techniques related to new music.

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SUBSCRIPTION TO ALL 4 CONCERTS	\$200	\$180	\$75
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Subscription Order Form

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				TOTAL	

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Your seats will be selected from best available in your chosen section indicated above.

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☐ AISLE

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Choose a section:

☐ ORCHESTRA

☐ BALCONY

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Cheques must be received no later than 15 business days prior to the first concert
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☐ BOX OFFICE PICK UP
(Please bring photo ID to claim your tickets during regular business hours)

Ticket Policy

Box office services for Esprit Orchestra are provided by The Royal Conservatory at the TELUS Centre for Performance and Learning. Credit card purchases will be charged by The Royal Conservatory. Cheques must be made out to The Royal Conservatory, and received no later than 15 business days prior to the first concert.

All sales are final. No refunds or cancellations. Unauthorized resale of tickets is prohibited. The Royal Conservatory is not responsible for tickets purchased through any unauthorized sales channel and such tickets will not be honoured.

Prices advertised on the Royal Conservatory web page and RCM marketing materials include Koerner Hall Box Office Service Fee (\$5) and 13% HST.

Programs and artists are subject to change. Should an artist be unable to appear, Esprit Orchestra reserves the right to make arrangements for substitute performers. Ticket holder acknowledges and agrees to assume all risks incidental to any performance for which this ticket was issued, whether occurring before, during or after such performance. Everyone, regardless of age, must have a ticket for admission to all seating areas.

Persons holding a senior or Under 30 discounted ticket must be prepared to present photo ID upon entry into the concert hall. Persons under the age of 5 will not be admitted entry into Koerner Hall.

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Saturday: 12pm to 6pm
Sunday/Holidays: 3 hours prior to performance
Email: tickets@rcmusic.ca
Online: performance.rcmusic.ca

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Ticket sales only cover 10% of the cost of Esprit's programming. Please consider making a donation to the Esprit Orchestra to recognize 30 years of success and help us continue the development of innovative programming in future. Please make cheques payable to Esprit Orchestra (mailed to 511-174 Spadina Avenue, Toronto, ON M5T 2C2), donate online at canadahelps.com or call 416.815.7887. Tax receipts will be issued by Esprit for all donations (Charitable Number: 12258 4782 RR0001).

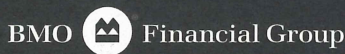
**I ALWAYS HAVE
THE TRUEST
REPRESENTATION
OF MY WORK WITH
THIS ENSEMBLE.**

R. MURRAY SCHAFER

ESPRIT ORCHESTRA GRATEFULLY
ACKNOWLEDGES THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR SUPPORT
OF THE 2012-2013 CONCERT SEASON

The BMO Financial Group is Esprit's Season Sponsor, affirming the orchestra's value and reflecting BMO's leadership in supporting the arts as vibrant and meaningful to our community. On Esprit's first three concerts, the five premiere performances of Canadian music are sponsored by The Koerner Foundation. Celebrating Esprit's longevity, we draw grateful attention to the strong, long-lasting support we've received from The Mary-Margaret Webb Foundation, The Max Clarkson Family Foundation, SOCAN Foundation as well as Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council and the Toronto Arts Council. We thank The Hal Jackman Foundation for major support of our collaboration with Edward Burtynsky.

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